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State of California

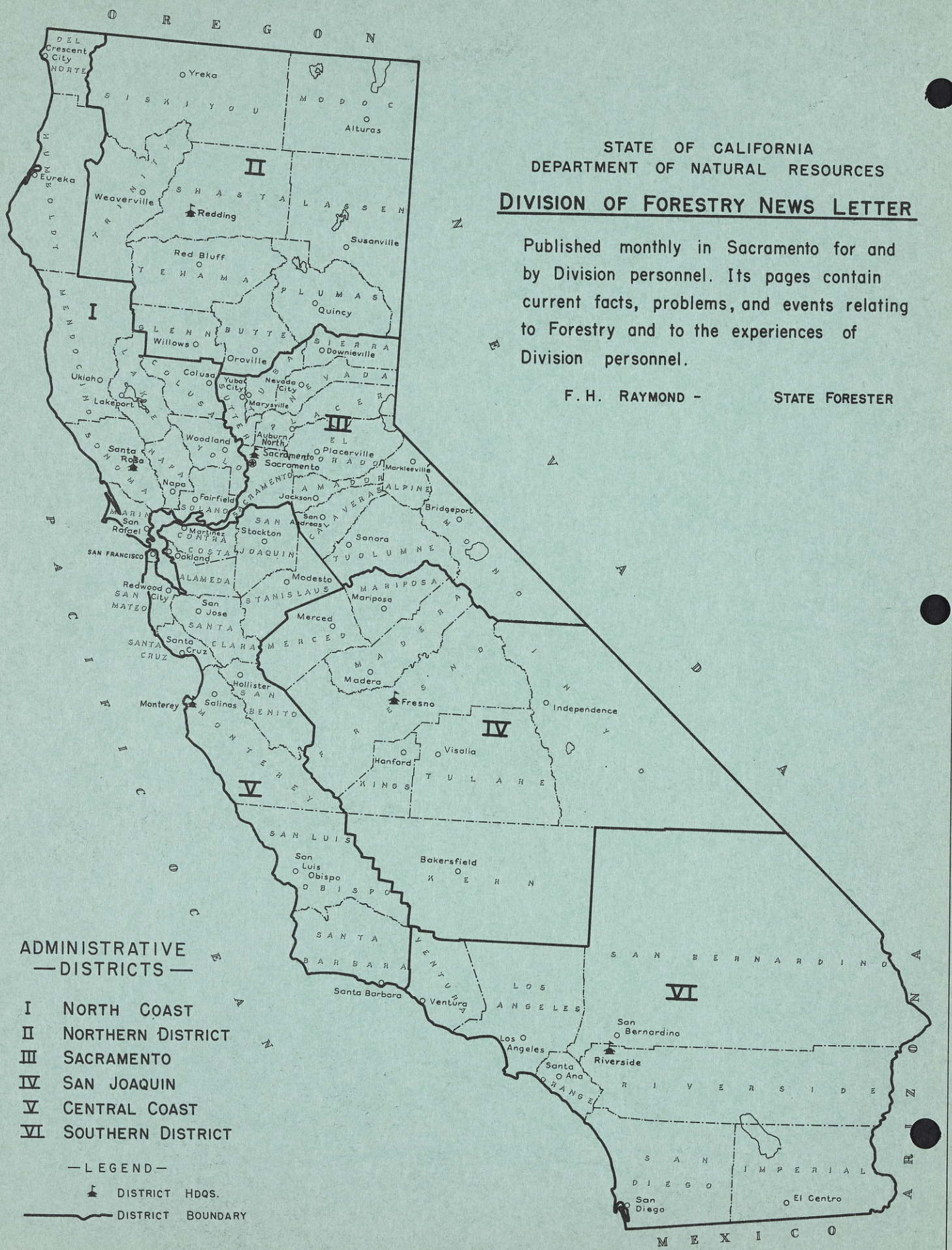
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

NEWS LETTER

AUG.-SEPT. 1957
VOL. 16 NO. 8&9

KEEP CALIFORNIA
GREEN and GOLDEN



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY NEWS LETTER

Published monthly in Sacramento for and by Division personnel. Its pages contain current facts, problems, and events relating to Forestry and to the experiences of Division personnel.

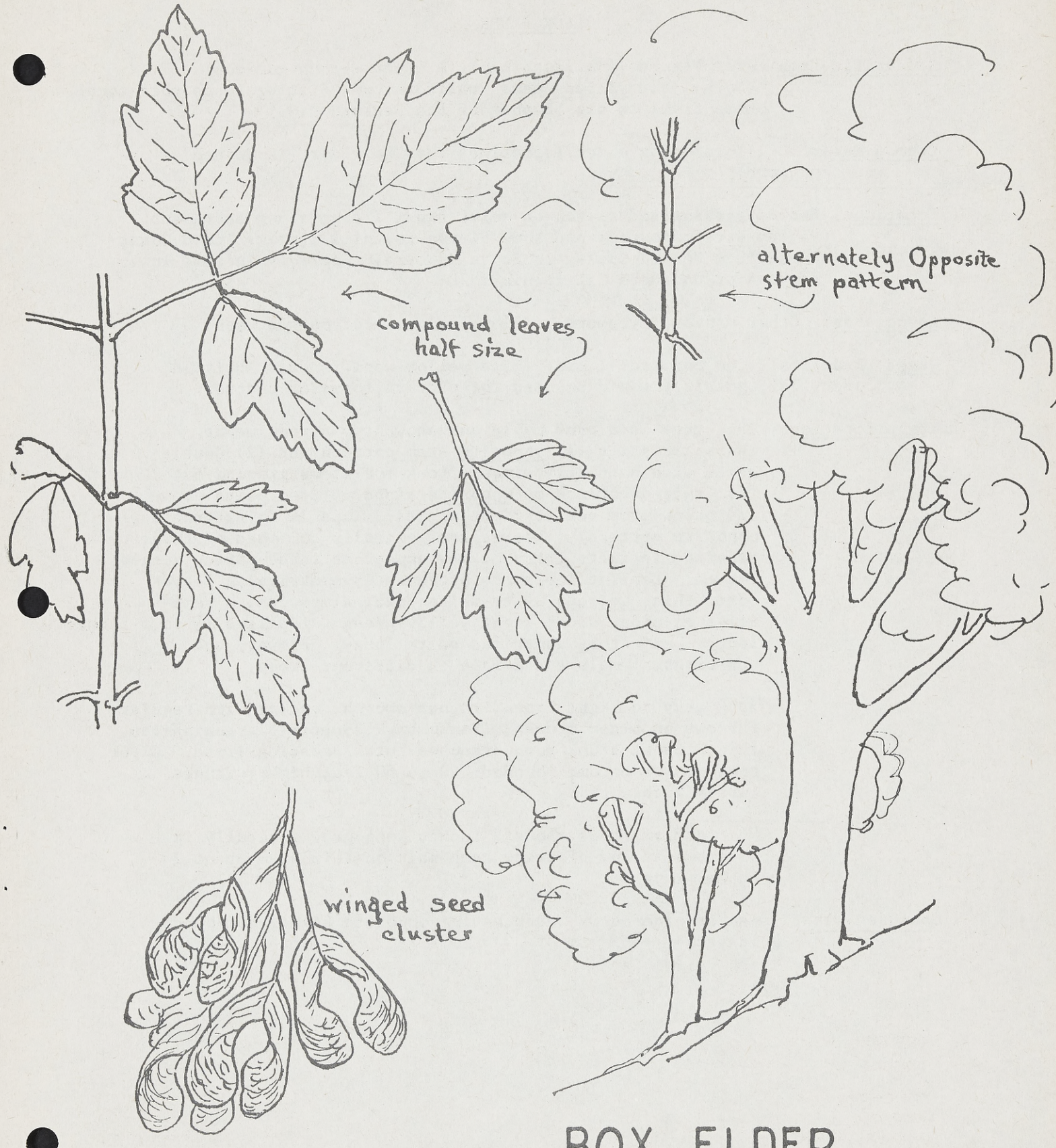
F. H. RAYMOND - STATE FORESTER

ADMINISTRATIVE
—DISTRICTS—

I NORTH COAST
II NORTHERN DISTRICT
III SACRAMENTO
IV SAN JOAQUIN
V CENTRAL COAST
VI SOUTHERN DISTRICT

—LEGEND—

DISTRICT HDQS.
DISTRICT BOUNDARY


alternately Opposite
stem pattern
compound leaves
half size
winged seed
cluster

BOX ELDER

BOX ELDER

Scientific Name: Acer Negundo (californicum) (A - sir -- nuh-gun-doe)
(Note: the variety name "californicum" distinguishes this local tree from its big brother of the Eastern U.S.)

Common Name: California box elder (sometimes the "boxelder" is joined as one word).

Location: Beside streams and rivers on moist sandy flats; along Sacramento Valley stream courses and some Sierra foothill streams; down Coast Range from Sonoma County to Santa Barbara. Sparsely in some lower canyons of Southern California.

Associates: Other maples, sycamore, willows, alder, cottonwood, ash.

Uses: Practically no commercial use. Pale yellow wood is soft, brittle; poor fuel; possibly could be used for pattern forms or crates.

Identification: This tree is a true maple and shows two strong maple characteristics (1) opposite stem pattern and (2) double seeds with butterfly wings. Look for stems growing out from twig or branch on opposite sides. (Stem pairs above and below grow out at right angles. This is an alternately-opposite pattern). Leaves are generally composed of three separate leaflets but some may appear as three-parted single leaves. Leaflet lobes are often not symmetrical. Leaves soft, thin, velvety, with white fuzz, almost hairy sometimes on under side; light yellow-green. Leaflets 1½ to 5 inches long. Leaf stems sometimes quite fuzzy. Flowers not conspicuous; male and female on different trees.

Bark gray to light brown, rather smooth, except with regular furrows on older trunks. Young bark sometimes greenish-tan, thin. Short trunk soon branches into spreading limbs. Older tree crowns become rounded, 20 to 50 feet high. Trunks rarely 2 feet thick

"Butterfly" seeds about 2 inches long grow generally in clusters at end of twig, each pair on thin stem about 2 inches long.

Confused with: Ash or elderberry, each having opposite stems, compound leaves.

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

During the period July 20 to August 20 there were 570 forest fires in Zones 1 and 2, or an average of 19 fires per day. These fires burned a total of 18,950 acres for an average of 632 acres per day. A few of the larger fires during the month of August are as follows:

1. August 3, near Calaveritas, Calaveras Unit, 900 acres.
2. August 7, near Latrobe, El Dorado Unit, 1,200 acres.
3. August 13, near Piedra, Fresno Unit, 1,250 acres.
4. August 13, near Likely, Lassen Unit, 6,000 acres.
5. August 15, near Pine Grove, Amador Unit, 900 acres.
6. August 18, near Likely, Lassen Unit, 16,640 acres.
7. August 19, near Clear Lake Oaks, Lake Unit, 2,100 acres.
8. August 24, near Burney, Shasta Unit, 1,920 acres.
9. August 24, near Etiwanda, San Bernardino Unit, 2,413 acres.

Listed below are the number of fires and acres burned in comparison with the five-year average for the period January 1 to August 20:

August 20	1957	5-year average
Incidence	1,341	1,241
Acres Burned	55,994	56,733

Although the incidence is 8% greater, the acreage burned is less this year than the five-year average. One of the circumstances contributing to this, notwithstanding the adverse climatic conditions throughout the spring and summer months, is the percentage of large fires that were controlled during the first burning period.

Inspections were made of the State-financed suppression forces on the Las Padres, Lassen, Modoc, and Plumas National Forests. All forests thus far inspected are doing a good job in maintaining the forces provided by the State. Crews are being maintained at a peak level of employment; however, the effect of crew personnel returning to school is beginning to be felt as with our own crews.

Preliminary budgeting work is being conducted for Fiscal Year 1958-59. The budget will request approximately 78% of the 1956 Fire Plan for protection of private lands within the National Forests.

A meeting was held with representatives of the Regional Office and the Legislative Auditor's office for the purpose of discussing the effectiveness of the State's present plan of initial attack forces on the National Forests.

The California portion of the C-M2 study being conducted by the Battelle Memorial Institute was concluded on August 15. All data collected during their eleven days of interviewing was taken to Columbus Ohio, for analysis by Battelle.

Conferences were held during the month of August with District II personnel and with representatives of the Johns-Mansville Corp. on chemical retardants. Johns-Mansville is providing the State with a supply of their product, microcell, for testing in comparison to the borate compound which we are presently using as a fire retardant.

The lightning control project in District I and II was in full action during the latter days of August as a flurry of lightning storm activity hit the northern portion of the State. Although 14 fires were started in the Paskenta area of District I, no cloud seeding was being conducted at the time in that immediate area. Absence of lightning fires elsewhere provide an indication that the cloud modification program was effective in preventing more fires.

The Division was represented at a meeting of the "Helitack" committee held in Washington, D.C. "Helitack" was initiated two years ago as a joint program between the U. S. Forest Service, Region 5, and the California Division of Forestry for the purpose of adapting the small helicopter to do close, support fire fighting work. The military, through the Army Engineers Development and Testing Laboratory in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, became a part of the program with their activities confined to the larger types of helicopters generally in use by the armed forces. The recent meeting in Washington provided an opportunity to evaluate the progress made by all agencies during the past year and outline an action program for the future.

ENGINEERING

Construction has started on the shop building at District II headquarters in Redding, Shasta County. Construction has also been started on the Vallecito Honor Camp in Calaveras County. This is an 80-man camp and it is expected that it will be completed in February, 1958.

Bids have been received for the 8-man combination barracks and messhall building at the new Corona Forest Fire Station in Riverside County.

Construction has been started on the new lookout tower at Grasshopper in Humboldt County. The construction will be completed this fall.

The well drilling for the New Del Puerto Forest Fire Station in Stanislaus County has been completed and tests show that the well is capable of delivering 250 gallons per minute.

FIRE PREVENTION

Considerable attention and time was devoted to preparing and displaying exhibits at County Fairs and the State Fair. Portable exhibits were again used to advantage from the standpoint of both time and expense.

Additional talking "Smokey Bear" units were received making it possible for assignment of one unit to each district permanently. With a unit readily available, more effective use will be made of a popular medium with substantial savings in transportation costs.

Two new tape recordings of 15 minute fire prevention sponsored musical programs for radio use were distributed to each district. These are musical shows donated by a Sacramento dance band. Several like programs will follow.

FOREST, RANGE, AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

NURSERY: The 1956-57 Fiscal Year report of the State Forest Nurseries shows that more trees were sold during this period than any previous season. The exact number of trees sold was 1,854,716, bringing an income of $26,715.

The previous high was the 1955-56 season with 1,412,720 trees being sold for a total value of $23,105.

Plantings for forest products last year on public and private lands amounted to 1,392,056 trees. This was 148,000 trees more than the previous year for this purpose. There were some 228,500 trees sold to the U. S. Forest Service for planting on federal land. The Division planted 95,200 trees of which 10,400 were planted on administrative sites and the remainder for forest products on State Forests. The number of trees planted for forest products on State Forests increased over the previous year by 13,000.

The cone crop for 1956-57 was the largest collected since the Division began a collection program of forest tree seed on a large scale. The number of sacks collected amounted to 4,768 yielding 7,915 pounds of clean seed. This bumper crop will afford an excellent seed bank for the nursery program for the next two years.

The results of a recently completed survey of the forest tree seed crop by the Division reveal that the prospects for the 1957-58 season will be poor. The California Forest and Range Experiment Station compiled this information with reports received from the U. S. Forest Service and recently released a report for the State.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT: A preliminary report of results of seeding areas burned in Southern California by major fires during late 1956 and early 1957 was prepared for the Director of Natural Resources. Although comparatively little accelerated erosion occurred on these burned areas, seeding was not highly successful in producing a protective plant cover. Volunteer growth of resident herbaceous plants produced a much denser vegetative cover than did seeded grasses, on all three areas where results were checked. On the LaChusa seeding project, in the area burned by the fires in the vicinity of Malibu, establishment of seeded perennial grasses on the four experimental areas was negligible. Because rainfall and other growth conditions were generally favorable for germination and establishment of grasses during the spring, results were much poorer than had been anticipated.

Range Improvement personnel from Sacramento attended the annual California Wool Growers' Association meeting in Stockton on August 7th and a two-day session of the American Institute of Biological Sciences at Stanford University during August 26th and 27th.

A series of meetings and inspections of Range Study Projects were held with District III Range Technicians in Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, and Amador Counties.

WOOD UTILIZATION PROGRAM FOR U. S. MANUFACTURERS CONTINUES

WASHINGTON - Processes, uses, equipment, markets and technical data are subjects of a survey being conducted for leading American Lumber Manufacturers and firms considering wood particle board production, by Timber Engineering Company, research affiliate of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association.

The survey by the lumber industry-owned service organization is a cooperative research project sponsored by approximately 25 leading U. S. wood and wood using firms. According to Carl A. Rishell, Teco vice president, the present study is a continuation and expansion of similar utilization surveys

conducted in 1955 and 1956.

One phase of the 1957 survey is the investigation of European waste utilization methods, uses and equipment. Teco particle board specialists will visit producing and using plants in Germany and Switzerland to obtain first-hand information. European studies were also made in 1955 and 1956.

A confidential report will be issued to sponsoring firms after the survey is completed.

The installation of a new wood particle board pilot plant at the Timber Engineering Company Laboratory provided prospective particle board producers with facilities for the development, testing and evaluation of boards to meet their exact production specifications. The pilot plant also has facilities for users and suppliers in testing and consulting on additives, adhesives, and residues used in board production.

The Timber Engineering Company's wood particle board pilot plant is the only one of its kind in commercial laboratories in the United States or Canada, and is fully equipped to simulate mass producing operations in a commercial plant.

TECO: 8-21-57: :47
Timber Engineering Company
1319 Eighteenth Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Associate Ranger Alvin B. Filippini transferred from Schedule B to Schedule A, Fresno Ranger Unit.

Associate Ranger John C. Hansen transferred from Coalinga to Fresno, Fresno Ranger Unit.

Donald M. Roleder promoted from Assistant Ranger, Siskiyou Ranger Unit, to Associate Ranger, Coalinga, Fresno Ranger Unit.

Donal L. Russell promoted from Assistant Ranger, San Diego Ranger Unit to Associate Ranger, Training, District VI Headquarters (in lieu of Fire Prevention appointment previously authorized).

Assistant Ranger Howard La Plant transferred from San Bernardino Ranger Unit to Siskiyou Ranger Unit.

Donald G. Keys promoted from Forest Fire Fighter Foreman to Assistant Ranger, San Bernardino Ranger Unit.

Assistant Ranger Thomas L. Neil transferred from Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit to Sacramento Headquarters, property section.

William W. Van Dusen promoted from Forest Fire Fighter Foreman, Butte Ranger Unit, to Assistant Ranger, Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit.

Harry R. Harp, promoted from Forest Fire Fighter Foreman, San Diego Ranger Unit, to Assistant Ranger, Mariposa Ranger Unit.

Bruce Morrow promoted from Forest Fire Fighter Foreman to Assistant Ranger, Fresno Ranger Unit.

Jack E. Brady promoted from Forestry Work Project Foreman, Humboldt Ranger Unit to Assistant Ranger, Mendocino Ranger Unit.

Vernon M. Arnold promoted from Forest Fire Fighter Foreman, Sonoma Ranger Unit, to Assistant Ranger, Tulare Ranger Unit.

Edward R. Dunton promoted from Forest Fire Fighter Foreman, Humboldt Ranger Unit, to Assistant Ranger, Fresno Ranger Unit.

Elmer R. Benson promoted from Forestry Work Project Foreman, Morena CDC Camp to Forestry Work Project Supervisor, Puerta LaCruz CDC Camp.

The following reclassifications from Forest Fire Dispatcher to Assistant Ranger are authorized effective August 30, 1957:

E. R. Garza, Santa Clara Ranger Unit.
Gerald L. McCarty, Madera Ranger Unit.
Sam A. Heidanus, Riverside Ranger Unit.
Alva G. Campbell, Napa Ranger Unit.

Jack Cloward promoted from Forestry Work Project Foreman, High Rock Honor Camp, Humboldt County, to Forestry Work Project Supervisor, Chamberlain Honor Camp, Mendocino County, effective July 31, 1957.

Kenneth Z. Beechel appointed as Assistant Forest Technician at Mt. Home, Tulare County, effective August 15, 1957.

Robert J. Hubbell appointed as Assistant Forest Technician at Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, effective July 29, 1957.

Dean F. Schlobohm reclassified from Forest Technician, District IV Headquarters, Fresno, to Senior Forest Technician, District IV Headquarters, Fresno, effective July 31, 1957.

Phillip G. Lowell promoted from Forestry Trainee, District I Headquarters, Santa Rosa, to Assistant Forest Technician, District I Headquarters, Santa Rosa, effective July 26, 1957.

Charles J. Goold, Forest Fire Fighter Foreman in ElDorado County, has been appointed Forestry Trainee in District I.

Paul B. Shults, Forest Fire Fighter Foreman in Tuolumne County, has been appointed Forestry Trainee in District I.

Pressley O. Kent, Jr., Forest Fire Fighter Foreman in Napa County, has been appointed Assistant Ranger-Dispatcher in Lake County.

Verne R. Osburn, Forestry Trainee in District II, promoted to Assistant Forest Technician, Butte County.

Frank Lewis, Forest Fire Dispatcher, transferred from Tulare to Madera County.

George LeBel, Forestry Work Project Foreman in District II, appointed as Forestry Trainee, District V.

Edwin Karman, Forest Fire Fighter Foreman Lake County, appointed Forestry Trainee, District VI.

Edward Schuckert, Forestry Work Project Supervisor, transferred from Puerta La Cruz, San Diego County, to Oak Glen, San Bernardino County.

In the last News Letter we reported the appointment of C. H. Coomber as Assistant Ranger in Santa Clara County. This appointment was not completed and Mr. Coomber is now under consideration for another assignment.

Miss Beatrice Ward has been appointed to the position of Supervising Clerk I to act as Personnel Operations Advisor for the Division of Forestry.

Bea has had approximately sixteen years with the State Personnel Board in Sacramento. Her most recent background includes nine years in the Transactions Section under the supervision of Mrs. Houston Thomas, whom most of us know. In this position Bea interpreted rules and laws relating to policies and procedures for leaves of absence, reinstatements, rejections, seniority lists, and sick leave and vacation. She also did a great deal of work on the Personnel Transactions Manual.

In addition, Bea has had two years in the Test Results Unit of the Examining Staff and five years in the Roster Unit, where she processed all types of personnel documents.

We feel fortunate in having Bea with us and know that her excellent background in the field of personnel will be a definite asset to the Division.

NEWS FROM THE ENGINEERING SECTION-Sacramento

As most of you know, the Engineering Section has been blessed with the return of two of its personnel. They are the "wordly-wise" travelers, Gunnar Forssbeck and Retta Baker. Gunnar was back on the job on the 3rd of September, and Retta returned on the 23rd.

Mr. Forssbeck has rejoined his fellow employees after two months spent in Sweden with his wife Gullevi. Having an abundancy of relatives and old friends to visit, their vacation was a very busy one. But although they were rushed, and even though Gunnar had some qualms about their mode of transportation (those new-fangled contraptions called airplanes), we were assured that they both had a wonderful time. It has been said, that for a few minutes on the way over, Mrs. Forssbeck was afraid she might have to continue on to Sweden alone. One of the plane's engines stopped and Gunnar was thoroughly convinced there was nothing to do but bail out! However, while he was busily donning his parachute, the plane made an emergency landing and after the engine was repaired, they continued on their way without further mishap. Of course, it must be confessed that the author has

exaggerated slightly, but we're sure Gunnar won't mind too much.

Retta Baker was gone from our midst for almost seven months while traveling with her husband through Europe. Doctor Baker is a professor at The Sacramento State College, and was granted a sabbatical leave in order to further his studies on Roman ruins. They made their voyage across the Atlantic by ship, and traveled through most of the countries in Western Europe including Portugal on the west and Malaga, Spain, on the south. They traveled 17,000 miles while in Europe in a little Hilman Minx which they purchased on their arrival. Retta said she thought Switzerland was the most beautiful of all the countries they traveled through (they stayed a month there), and she felt that Italy was the most interesting because of its many ruins and historical background. Aside from seeing and doing so many wonderful things, they were able to visit relatives in Scotland, and attended the wedding of one of their nieces. One of Retta's most unusal experiences was when they traveled from Italy into Switzerland via the St. Gotthard Tunnel. The Bakers sat in their car and the car in turn sat on a flat-bed railroad car, and through the tunnel they sped! It must have been quite a sensation. On their return trip across the ocean the Bakers (and their newly acquired Minx) were on the Queen Mary. They stayed for a short while in New York, during which time they saw the stage play "My Fair Lady," and then drove on across the United States stopping to see a daughter and her family in Casper, Wyoming.

And so our weary travelers have returned, and by now have settled down to devoting their time and efforts to the wants and needs of the beloved Engineering Section of the dear old Division of Forestry.

DISTRICT I

LETTER TO RANGER MANN FROM MRS. CATHERINE RYAN

"On behalf of the Redwood Empire Fair I wish to thank you for your wonderful cooperation at our recent show. It was help such as yours that made it possible for this years Fair to double the attendance over last year and made the whole Show the success it was.

"Your men that set-up the booth and were there when possible, were extremely pleasant and cooperative, and it was a pleasure to work with them."

DISTRICT IV - INSECT CONTROL WORK

During July of this year a tremendous buildup of bark beetle attack was noted in the area surrounding the McGee burn of 1955 adjacent to the General Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. This infestation was brought to the attention of the Division of Forest Insect Research of the California Forest and Range Experiment Station. An airplane survey by the entomologists showed that this is one of the largest buildups in many years. It covers roughly 75,000 acres. Most of the area is publicly owned, either by the U. S. Forest Service or the National Park Service.

By the middle of August, work had begun on the control of the beetles. Insects involved are Mountain Pine Beetle, Western Pine Beetle, and Red Terpentine Beetle, with some Engraver and Flathead attack. In most instances, the attacks can be traced as originating in fire-weakened trees. However, much of the current infestation is now located in the magnificent virgin stands of the Kings Canyon National Park. Here sugar pine, up to 90 inches DBH, is being felled and treated.

Salvage timber sales are now in progress to reduce the amount of control work necessary. On the Forest Service areas stumpage pricewas as low as 50¢ per thousand board feet. Even at this low price it will be advantageous, in that the high cost per tree of felling, limbing, and treating will be eliminated.

Most of the privately owned land involved is in the low elevation pure ponderosa type and is inside the burn perimeter. Because of heavy salvage logging on these lands after the fire, the current insect loss is less than in other areas. A zone of insect infestation is being requested, so that the expected infestation, which may appear in the spring, can be co-operatively treated. The Division has worked on one parcel of private land and the Whitaker Forest this fall. At the lower elevations, the insects had left most of the trees by August 20th. By September 1st, the only trees left throughout the entire area to be treated were sugar pine. The Mountain Pine Beetle seems to be about 2 to 3 weeks behind the Western Pine Beetle in emergence in this area, allowing for a longer period of control activity on the sugar pine.

It is estimated that an excess of 3 million board feet of timber has been lost to insects during the past six months. With the control work and salvage logging now in progress and with the machinery set up for further control during the coming spring, it is hoped this epidemic infestation can be reduced to normal.

Dean Schlobohm
Senior Forest Technician

TULARE RANGER UNIT

At approximately 4 o'clock on the afternoon of August 28th, Foreman Jim Graham of the Pixley Assistant Ranger District in Tulare County, was operating a county owned Schedule A pickup in the town of Pixley, on official State business, when the pickup was hit from the side by a speeding car which should have yielded the right-of-way. The car slid some 45 feet before hitting Graham's pickup but still had sufficient momentum to turn the pickup over and onto its top, doing considerable damage to the pickup in the way of broken glass and general smashing. It so happened that the pickup is equipped with safety belts and Foreman Graham was wearing his. As a result, the most serious thing that happened to Graham was the embarrassment of being hung up in the pickup, and having to let himself down on his head and shoulders.

We tell this story merely as another very positive proof of the value of safety belts at the right time.

G. O. Phibbs
State Forest Ranger

KINGS COUNTY

Assistant Forest Ranger N. O. Stephens and our gang did a very creditable job constructing the Forestry and Fire Control display area at the Kings County Fair. Critic that I am, it was the most attractive exhibit installation on the grounds.

Smokey was certainly a show stopper for the children!

Sure signs the boss is returning soon from his vacation. The crew at

headquarters is working the place over with soap, water and elbow grease. From all reports, Associate Ranger and Mrs. C. E. Lindley enjoyed every minute of their trip north and will tell us all about it on their return Monday.

The cotton harvest is not too long off. The crop looks good, and if weather conditions don't fool us, Kings County cotton farmers will cash in this year.

This area expects to have some pretty fast industrial and residential development now that the Go Ahead was given for the Lemoore Naval Jet Base.

There are quite a few deer hunters among our men. David Barros and Richard Gilbert at headquarters are planning to pack way back for five days. The amount of food they are taking, as well as the large number of shells and matches, makes me think they are hoping to get lostfor the winter in Nature's wonderland. Heard tell, the boss has his sights on a "never fail" area.

I've got fall fever. I find myself breathing in deeply of the brisk morning air and keeping ahead of deadlines. Hope you are the same.

Florence P. Appell
Clerk Dispatcher
Hanford Headquarters

VALUE OF LARGE HELICOPTERS AS A FIRE RETARDANT AND DIRECT FIRE CONTROL TOOL

The value of large helicopters as a fire retardant and direct fire control tool was effectively demonstrated during initial attack operations on a 16-acre brush and grass fire in Monterey County on August 7 three and a half miles southwest of Soledad. Four Bertol H-21C "Flying Bananas," enroute between Fort Ord and Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, observed the fire and hovered adjacent to the fire edge at a minimum altitude. Their action neutralized 15-mile per hour winds causing a rapid build-up with a deflected downward force of approximately 240 miles per hour. Helicopter pilots worked in close conjunction with the initial attack fire crew, holding back the fire where ground forces were building line and in hot-spotting ahead. In some open grass areas the copters actually extinguished the fire.

Helicopters periodically landed beside the fire crew and pilots discussed the fire with the CDF foreman although no direct supervision of the aerial control efforts was attempted from the ground.

The fire burned within 300 yards of the main Paloma Ridge firebreak, and, without the services of the aerial units, it is conjected the head would have jumped the break, which would have resulted in a major campaign fire.

Pilots of the "Flying Bananas," assigned to the 33rd Transportation Helicopter Company at Fort Ord, gained their experience and training in fire fighting work while the unit was assigned in Kansas for one year in "blowing out" numerous prairie fires near the post.

Each of the 20 twin-bladed helicopters assigned at Fort Ord is capable of transporting 20 fully-equipped soldiers or an internal payload of 3600 pounds or an external load of 3000 pounds.

W. C. Austin
State Forest Ranger

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

We certainly have variety.

On July 21, the Santa Clara Ranger Unit men responded to a fire in the Eastern foothills on the O'Connell Ranch. Ranger Britton was valiantly leading his troops into battle when an unseen enemy began firing. It came about like this: There was a very stiff south wind blowing and the first truck in had considerably more than three could handle. Ranger Britton knew he had to take advantage of the next road north, and set about his chosen work with a torch. "And then it happened." After coming out of a nearby ditch, it was found the area was loaded with dynamite caps and the air was filled with bits of shrapnel. This continued intermittently for several hundred yards. It was not until later that more caps and three old cases of dynamite were located in an old shack just across this same road. The dangerous booby traps were left by a mining operation that had worked the area several years ago. The sheriff's office is handling the situation and have located the responsible individuals.

Needless to say, there was one hot Irishman when all this was going on. There's more to this story. Cause: Miscellaneous, friction, baby buggy. Four boys were taking turns coasting down the grassy hillside. The buggy upset and sparks from the buggy striking rocks ignited the grass. Due to the action taken by the boys after causing the fire, I was convinced of the validity of the story. It's Possible!

Jack T. Skeels
Assistant State Forest Ranger

DISTRICT VI

Our reading lately has been mostly of Sacramento bluelines listing promotions and transfers or else deadlines for new reports. The most interesting are the former. We will try to touch on those not likely to be read by the field and those with unusual angles.

We'll start off with Joe Springer. Joe was a CDC Camp supervisor for the past year without a camp, a camp site, a camp foreman, or an inmate. Guess he got tired of waiting and is now a Forest Technician. Recently, he was measuring heights of Washingtonian Palms near Palm Springs and found the 121 degree temperature caused the Abney bubble to disappear. Luckily, some 100 degree water was nearby, and he recovered the bubble by dipping the Abney and himself in.

Joe's partner, Ed Schuckert, formerly assigned to the under-construction Puerta La Cruz Camp, got himself a camp by taking over Oak Glen when Dick Groninger transferred to San Diego as Associate.

San Bernardino County, never lacking since 1953 for arsonists bent on burning off the front country from Devore to Mill Creek, has been training Foreman Buzz Whitlock as Head Dispatcher. When his old Lake County offered him an Assistant Ranger spot, he took off through the crowded highways like a scared jack rabbit. He never did like our heavy traffic, and I often said, "that boy ain't made for these parts."

Local stock recently gaining several ten dollar bills monthly by being appointed Assistant Forest Rangers in District VI are Fred Cain, Dave Flake,

Doug Glenn, and Ordean Monsen. Doug says that heavy reading and bragging with humility helped him to the top. The others aren't talking.

Returning to District VI are Assistant Ranger Jim Johnson, the ex-fire eater, and Assistant Ranger Gerald Tipton. I guess long fire seasons with short fishing seasons are acceptable to them. Likewise choosing the local scenery is ex-Lake County Foreman and Fisherman, Ed Karmen, now Trainee here. He lived locally in other years so knows there is little water here.

Riverside and Orange Counties have been getting the business so far this year. Of the fires in Class D and E size, they have had eleven of the fourteen from June 1 to August 10. They likewise account for almost all of the 15,000 acres in Zones 1 and 2 so far. This is in spite of the fact that Ranger Holland locked up three newly developed fire bugs. His second of eight major fires so far produced an unusual lead to the lockup. Ray Bryant, F.E.O., while at the first fire, had noticed three characters, and their car applying for a job for which they were turned down. Several hours later, while driving a jeep as pilot to a laden transport responding to a possible major, he saw this car pulling out from the roadside a half mile ahead. Upon reaching that point, a newborn fire was taking strength. Its growth was phenomenal and beyond the capacity of the dozer when they were able to get it on the ground. Ray, however, had radioed a quick description of the car. This proved unnecessary as car and occupants soon returned to secretly watch their offspring. Ray, still the observant one, unhesitatingly put the finger on them. For that dastardly act, they are now barred from the world. Oh yes, the fire was named Fiasco not for any of the above reasons or for what we did or did not do while it grew to 1,000 acres in the next one hour and finally 7,500. It happened to start in almost the identical spot where we had our District VI Fire School fire start last March (on paper). In that imaginary March fire, we purposely had fire fighters and dispatchers map their actions on a huge topog map and sometimes purposely commit errors. The audience was to spot the errors or tell how they could do things better. At this, the audience proved better than anticipated. Due to these flaws, we had named our paper fire "Fiasco," and so the offspring of the three boys was so named because of its point of origin.

The L. A. County Fire Department recently acquired a 2-place Bell Chopper, sometimes called a helicopter. Airplanes for forestry work are becoming almost accepted around this end of the State. U. S. Forest Service has one on contract that totes 1500 gallons. The newly finished TBM lugs 400. There are others too. The 2474 acre Morse Fire north of Etiwanda had seven winged craft on it. They did considerable good as they likewise did on another joint fire below Boucher Lookout. On another probable major near our Oak Glen/Camp CDC, the U.S. Forest Service TBM received heavy praise from us for hitting our fire right on the nose at ten acres. This was in less than an hour after origin and the fire was just reaching up-hill pay dirt. At the time, we were badly thinned out and all three CDC crews within two hours travel had just retired from 18 hours of work.

Doug Glenn, Dispatcher